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PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in Skirting

We, JAMES BOOTH ALUMINIUM LIMITED, a British Company of Kitts Green, Birmingham 33, in the County of Warwick, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a Patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to skirting for use at the junctions between the floors and walls of buildings.

It is a disadvantage at present encountered that it is difficult to effectively clean out the junction between walls and floors due to the fact that there is usually a crack present along the junction or along the skirting and this can be a serious disadvantage when extremely hygienic surroundings are required such as for example in operating theatres of hospitals.

It is the object of the present invention to provide an improved construction of skirting for use at the junctions between wall and floor surfaces which will allow thorough cleaning of such surfaces and to enable substantially the complete removal of all dust and dirt particles to be performed.

According to the present invention we provide a skirting strip adapted to extend horizontally in the angle between a wall and a floor and comprising an extruded section having upper and lower portions positioned respectively above and below a web, which is common to both portions, the upper portion having an upper wall extending upwardly from a forward position on the web and curving rearwardly therefrom and being formed, at its longitudinally extending edge, with a longitudinally extending recess which opens rearwardly, and the lower portion having a downwardly opening recess defined by a base wall, provided by the web, and lower front and rear walls extending downwardly

from the web, and the lower rear wall having a forwardly curving extension. When this skirting strip is in position the boundary edge or edges of one or more panels of flexible floor covering material can extend upwardly into the recess in the lower portion being supported by the lower rear wall, and there can be introduced into the recess in the upper portion a sealing bead to be held therein and to project therefrom so as to make sealing contact with the wall when the edge portion of the upper wall of the upper portion is pressed toward the wall.

The recess formed in the upper portion of the skirting strip may be rectangular cross-sectional shape or alternatively said recess may be of semi-circular cross sectional shape.

The recess formed in the lower portion of the skirting strip may be of rectangular cross sectional shape and the depth of the rear wall of this recess is preferably substantially greater than the front wall of the recess.

The front wall of the recess in the lower portion of the skirting strip can conveniently be formed with a reduced thickness portion at or adjacent its junction with the web so that, when the flexible floor covering material is in position within this recess, the front wall may be bent inwardly under pressure to grip that material.

The upper wall of the skirting strip may be continuous with the lower front wall. The upper portion of this upper wall preferably comprises the front wall of the recess formed in its longitudinally extending edge.

Two forms of skirting strip constructed in accordance with the present invention will now be described in more detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:—

FIGURE 1 is a rear perspective view of one form of the skirting strip;

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FIGURE 2 is a cross sectional end view of the same skirting strip, positioned in the angle between a wall of a building and the floor; and

5 FIGURE 3 is a cross sectional end view similar to Figure 2, of a slightly modified form of skirting strip.

In the construction shown in Figures 1 and 2 the skirting strip, shown generally at 10, is used in conjunction with a floor covering material comprising plastics tiles or sheets 11 which are sufficiently flexible to be bent and shaped to a required configuration corresponding to that of the lower portion of the skirting, as indicated below.

The skirting itself comprises an extruded section of aluminium or any suitable material comprising an upper and a lower portion.

The lower portion has a downwardly opening longitudinally extending channel or recess 12 of rectangular form formed at its upper end and defined by a horizontal web 29 and front and rear walls 14 and 13 respectively, extending downwardly from the web 29. The rear wall 13 is substantially parallel to the front wall 14 at the position where the recess is formed between them, but the rear wall 13 extends lower than the front wall 14, the lower part of the rear wall curving downwardly and forwardly through approximately a right angle so that at its lower end 15 it is substantially perpendicular to its upper end.

A rearwardly projecting strengthening rib 16 extends on the rear of an longitudinally of the rear wall 13 at a position adjacent the recess 12 and a number of counter-sunk holes 17 are formed in a further rib 18 below this strengthening rib 16, these holes being intended to receive a number of wood screws one of which is shown at 19, to secure the skirting strip to the wall 20. The skirting strip is further secured in position by means of a number of masonry nails 21 passing through the rear wall 13 at a position adjacent its lower end 15.

The upper portion of the section is formed as a wall 22 extending upwardly from the front edge of the web 29 so as to be continuous with the lower front wall 14. The upwardly extending front wall 22 is also curved rearwardly. This upwardly extending wall 22 is formed forms at its upper edge part with a rearwardly opening recess 23, of which one side is formed by the edge portion of the wall 22 and the other side 24 is provided on the rear of the wall 22 and parallel to it; both sides of the recess 23 are therefore curved and their relative depths are such that there outer edges are adjacent the vertical surface of the wall of the building.

A sealing bead 26 formed of butyl-rubber or any suitable plastics material is formed with a rib which is inserted in this rearwardly opening recess 23 before the skirting strip is placed in position; when in position,

the upwardly extending wall 22 of the upper portion may be lightly pressed rearwardly so that the outer part of the sealing bead 26 is pressed into firm sealing contact with the wall 20 of the building. To facilitate the grip of the recess upon this sealing bead, the inner edge of the side of the recess which is part of the front wall 22 is formed with a sharp corner.

The floor covering material is formed of plastics tiles or panels 11, these panels being sufficiently flexible to conform to the curved shape of the front of the main part of the rear wall 13 of the lower portion of the skirting strip. The upper edge of each panel is pressed into the downwardly opening recess 12 in the lower portion until the upper edge of the panel abuts the base of the recess. The front wall 14 of the recess 12 is formed with an inwardly projecting sharp edge 27 at its lower edge and a reduced thickness portion 28 adjacent its junction with the web 29, so that, when the front wall 14 is lightly hammered, it will bend rearwardly and the sharp edge will penetrate the plastics material 11 thereby holding it securely in position within the recess 12. The material 11 is wall 13 of the lower portion of the skirting then bent to following the curve of the rear strip and is secured to the floor at a position adjacent the lower edge 15 of said rear wall.

A slightly modified construction of skirting strip is shown in Figure 3 of the drawings in which like reference numerals corresponding to the features hereinbefore described.

In this construction the cross sectional shape of the strips is similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2 except that the strengthening rib 16 is omitted and the longitudinally extending recess 23 is of semi-circular cross sectional shape provided by an arcuate rear wall 24 merging into the upper edge portion 25 of the front wall 22 of the upper portion; the sealing bead 26 is formed with an appropriately shaped rib to engage within the semi-circular recess 23.

Thus the surface of the floor covering 11 and the front of the front wall of the recess 12 in the lower portion of the skirting are substantially continuous except for a small overhang; also firm sealing contact can be made between the upper portion and the wall of the building; thus there are substantially eliminated any cracks where dirt or dust particles may accumulate and this allows the base of the wall and the edge of the floor to be thoroughly washed and cleaned to present extremely hygienic surfaces.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A skirting strip adapted to extend horizontally in the angle between a wall and a floor and comprising an extruded section having upper and lower portions positioned

- respectively above and below a web, which is common to both portions, the upper portion having an upper wall extending upwardly from a forward position on the web and curving rearwardly therefrom and being formed at its longitudinally extending edge, with a longitudinally extending recess which opens rearwardly, and the lower portion having a downwardly opening recess defined by a base wall, provided by the web, and lower front and rear walls extending downwardly from the web, and the lower rear wall having a forwardly curving extension.
2. A skirting strip as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the recess in the upper portion of the strip is of rectangular cross sectional shape.
3. A skirting strip as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the recess in the upper portion of the strip is of semi-circular cross sectional shape.
4. A skirting strip as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the recess in the lower portion of the strip is of rectangular cross sectional shape and the depth of the rear wall of said recess is substantially greater than the depth of the front wall of said recess.
5. A skirting strip as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the front wall of the recess in the lower portion of the strip is formed with a reduced thickness portion at or adjacent its junction with the web so that, when flexible floor covering material is in position within said recess in the lower portion, the front wall may be bent inwardly under pressure to grip that material.
6. A skirting strip as claimed in Claim 4 or 5 wherein the upper wall of the strip is continuous with the lower front wall of the recess in the lower portion of the strip.
7. A skirting strip as claimed in any one of the previous claims, wherein the upper portion of the upper wall comprises the front wall of the recess formed in its longitudinally extending edge.
8. A skirting strip constructed substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings.
9. A skirting strip constructed substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

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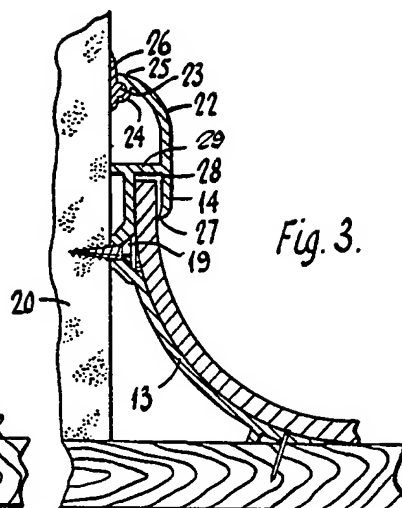
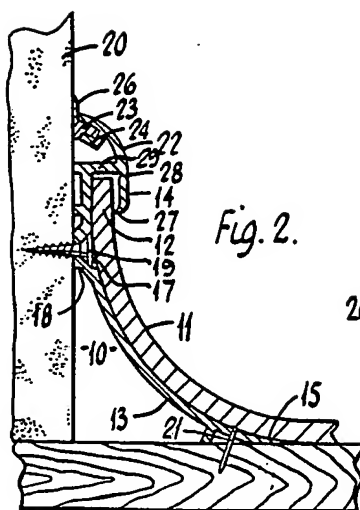
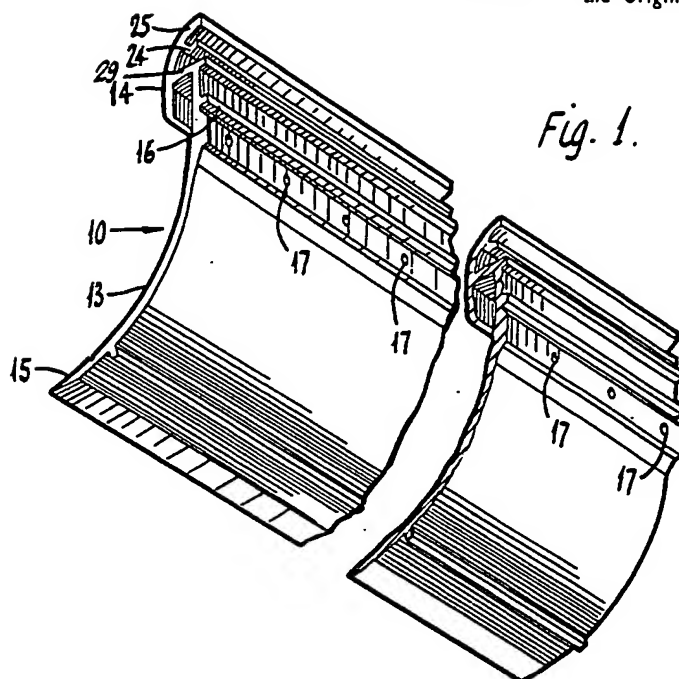
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1 SHEET

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